

Chapter One

Introduction to Health Model

Assessment of community health status is one of the three core public health functions identified by the Institute of Medicine (IOM)'s landmark report, the *Future of Public Health*.¹ IOM's 1996 follow-up document reiterated the definition of assessment as the regular systematic collection, assembly, analysis, and dissemination of information on the health of the community.²

Metropolitan Public Health Department of Nashville and Davidson County (In this report, Nashville and Davidson County will be referred to as "Nashville", and Metropolitan Public Health Department of Nashville and Davidson County will be referred to as "MPHD".) commits to identify and prioritize community health needs and convey an awareness of these needs to the community. In 1995, MPHD began formally collecting and analyzing data as a part of an ongoing community health assessment. Assessment has subsequently become one of the essential functions of MPHD to materialize our mission: to provide health protection, promotion, and information products to everyone in Nashville so they can enjoy healthy living free from disease, injury, and disability.

Health Model

Health, Nashville, TN, 2002 is the result of MPHD's ongoing community health assessment effort. For this report, we have chosen, from the many theoretical approaches to defining health, the definitions proposed in 1946 and in 1986 by the World Health Organization (WHO)^{3, 4} as the theoretical basis for the Nashville Community Health Assessment Model:

Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. (1946)

Health covers "the extent to which an individual or group must be able to identify and to realize aspirations, to satisfy needs, to change or cope with the environment. Health is, therefore, seen as a resource for everyday life, not the objective of living. Health is a positive concept emphasizing social and personal resources as well as physical capabilities." (1986)

Using WHO definitions, we adopt an operational model for Nashville's community health assessment. This model is based on two recognized frameworks^{5, 6}: 1) Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) Community Health Status Assessment Framework and 2) the Canadian Health Survey Framework.

The MHD's operational model of health consists of three main levels (Figure 1):

1. Determinants of health,
2. Health status, and
3. Consequences of health.

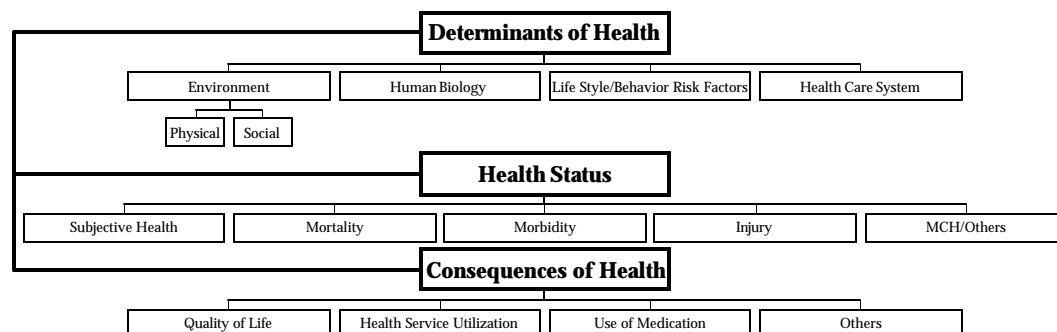


Figure 1. The MPH's Operational Model of Health

The concept of determinants of health goes beyond purely medical boundaries. It includes four major elements that contribute to health problems. They are 1) environment, 2) human biology, 3) lifestyle and behaviors, and 4) the health care system. Any health problem can be traced to one or a combination of the four elements.⁷

We have adopted this model because of its orientation toward prevention and education, and because of its flexibility. Due to constraints in the availability of data and other resources, we can only include in this report the most important indicators and those which are readily available. Since community health assessment is an ongoing process, as time goes on, and as additional data and/or other resources become available, additional community health information can be added to the future editions of *Health, Nashville, TN*.

How to Use This Report

This report is organized around the previously described health model with an emphasis on education and prevention. The report consists of five parts: introduction, determinants of health, health status, consequences of health problems, and appendices.

Individuals and organizations interested in health-related socio-economic data on Nashville will find a variety of demographic, socio-demographic, and socio-economic information under the section "Determinants of Health". The latest mortality and morbidity data and maternal and child health information is contained in the "Health Status" section. To help our readers answer the question "How is Nashville doing?", comparative data on a variety of health indicators for Nashville, Tennessee, the entire United States, and Healthy People 2010 objectives, when available, are included as well. The report is designed to serve as a comprehensive community health status information resource; therefore, a selection of raw data is also included in the appendices section for those who may need to perform their own analysis.

Neighborhood or small area data is of interest to many community members. We have made an effort to include small area data in this report. We have used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to obtain small area data when available. Using GIS, we are able to present population data, morbidity and mortality data at the public health planning district level and at the council district level. Our goal is to eventually have all or the majority of Nashville's health status data at the public health planning district and the council district levels.

Statistics presented in this report are generally for the most recent year or period available. All data from censuses, surveys, or administrative records are subject to errors arising from a number of factors: sampling variability, reporting errors, incomplete coverage, non-responses, and processing errors. The Division of Epidemiology is responsible for the data selection, analysis, and presentation; however, we will not be responsible for the accuracy or limitations of data presented here, other than those which we collect. If we notice any accuracy or variability issues with a data source, we will be sure to bring those to the readers' attention. More information on data sources and methodological issues are detailed in the Appendix: Technical Notes.

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Suggestions and Comments

Users/readers of this report are urged to make their data needs known for consideration in planning future editions. Suggestions and comments for improving coverage and presentation of data should be sent to:

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We sincerely hope that you will find this report of value to you.

This report is available at:

1. Metropolitan Public Health Department website:
<http://healthweb.nashville.org>
2. The Public Library of Nashville and Davidson County, TN

References:

1. Institute of Medicine. *The Future of Public Health*. Washington DC: National Academy Press; 1988.
2. Institute of Medicine. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. Washington DC: National Academy Press; 1996.
3. Constitution of the World Health Organization, 1948. In: *Basic Documents*. 15th ed. Geneva: WHO; 1964.
4. Regional Office for Europe WHO. *The World Health Organization: Health Promotion: Concept and Principles in Action – A Policy Framework*. 1986.
5. The National Association of County and City Health Officials and The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships: A Community Roadmap to Health*. Washington DC; 2001.
6. Canada Health Survey, Health and Welfare Canada and Statistics Canada. *The Health of Canadians: Report of the Canada Health Survey*. Ottawa: Ministry of Supply and Services Canada; 1981.
7. Bernier L, Sauvageau Y, et al. *User's Guide to 40 Community Health Indicators*. Health and Welfare Canada; 1992.

The mission of the Metro Public Health Department is to provide health protection, promotion, and information to everyone in Nashville so they can enjoy healthy living free from disease, injury, and disability.